

In the Claims:

Please rewrite claims 1, 2, 6-8, 11, 13 and 14, and add new claim 21. The changes in these claims from their immediate prior version are shown with [[double brackets]] for deleted matter and underlines for added matter. A complete listing of the claims with proper claims identifiers follows.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) In a filter for [[fluids, especially]] fluid fuels, having a supporting body supporting a filter fabric and serving to keep opposite sides of a filter body formed by the filter fabric spaced from one another, and a pump connection neck provided on the exterior of the filter body, which, in the interior of the filter body has an inlet opening, wherein the supporting body is enclosed in the filter fabric and has a connection to the exterior by the inlet opening and the pump connection neck and, wherein the filter has a first part comprising the pump connection neck and at least one second part positioned at an angle with respect to the first part, the improvement comprising the first part being formed by a monolithic tubular body having a main axis and an exterior, which, at its first end, has the pump connection neck positioned in a substantially right angle with respect to the main axis of the tubular body and, which, at its second end, has the axially extending inlet opening, in that the tubular body opposite to the pump connection neck has an intake opening covered by filter fabric, in that the filter body, made of the supporting body and the filter fabric, forms the second part of the filter and the filter body being fixedly connected with the tubular body in [[the]] a chosen angular position with respect to the same.

2. (Currently amended) The filter of claim 1 wherein the intake opening has a [[cross-section]] cross-sectional area at least as large as that of the pump connection neck.

3. (Original) The filter of claim 1 wherein the tubular body has a rectangular cross-section.

4. (Original) The filter of claim 1 wherein the supporting body is injection molded onto the filter fabric forming a first side of the filter body.

5. (Original) The filter of claim 4 wherein the filter fabric forming a second side of the filter body is connected with the filter fabric forming the first side of the filter body by a weld forming at least a part of the circumference of the filter body.

6. (Currently amended) The filter of claim 1 wherein the tubular body [[at the inlet opening]] has a reinforcement surrounding the [[same]] inlet opening, which forms an interior shoulder and, wherein a connection piece of the filter body abuts the interior shoulder such that the free cross-section of flow in the inlet opening is unchanged.

7. (Currently amended) The filter of claim 6 wherein the connection piece is permanently fixed at the inlet opening of the tubular body by ultrasonic welding [[or the like]].

8. (Currently amended) The filter of claim 6 wherein [[the]] an outer interior edge of the inlet opening has an inlet bevel.

9. (Original) The filter of claim 1 wherein a clamping device is located on the exterior of the tubular body next to the pump connection neck for mounting the filter on the suction side of a pump.

10. (Original) The filter of claim 9 wherein the clamping device is formed by a unitary lateral projection of the tubular body.

11. (Currently amended) The filter of claim 10 wherein the clamping device comprises a slot surrounded by a [[downwardly extending]] skirt and wherein the skirt has a slight conicity.

12. (Original) The filter of claim 11 wherein the conicity of the skirt is about 3°.

13. (Currently amended) A fuel filter comprising:

a) a first part comprising a monolithic tubular body having an axis and

- i) a pump connection neck positioned at a substantially right angle with respect to said axis on a first end of the tubular body,
- ii) an [[axially extending]] inlet opening on a second end of the tubular body opposite to the pump connection neck and extending in the direction of the axis of the tubular body; and
- iii) an intake opening covered by a filter fabric; and

b) a second part comprising a supporting body inside of a filter fabric envelope holding the filter envelope open, the supporting body being fixedly connected to the tubular body at a predetermined angle, and the axially extending inlet opening providing fluid communication between the interior of the filter envelope and the tubular body.

14. (Currently amended) A vehicle fuel filter for mounting to a fuel pump in a fuel tank comprising:

- a) a monolithic tubular body having an axis, a first end and a second end opposite the first end, the second end comprising an inlet opening;
- b) a pump connection neck positioned on the first end of the tubular body and having a filter outlet opening for mounting the filter on a fuel pump intake, the filter outlet opening having an axis at a substantially right angle to the axis of the tubular body;
- c) an envelope of filter fabric surrounding the inlet opening such that fuel entering into the envelope can pass into the tubular body through the inlet opening; and
- d) a supporting body fixedly connected to the tubular body at the second end and at a predetermined angle to the tubular body, at least a portion of the supporting body preventing the filter envelope from collapsing.

15. (Original) The filter of claim 14 wherein the supporting body is injection molded onto the filter fabric forming a first side of the filter body.

16. (Original) The filter of claim 15 wherein the filter fabric forming a second side of the filter body is connected with the filter fabric forming the first side of the filter body by a weld forming at least a part of the circumference of the filter body.

17. (Original) The filter of claim 14 wherein a clamping device is located on the exterior of the tubular body next to the pump connection neck for mounting the filter on the suction side of a pump.

18. (Original) The filter of claim 17 wherein the clamping device is formed by a unitary lateral projection of the tubular body.

19. (Original) The filter of claim 18 wherein the clamping device comprises a slot surrounded by a downwardly extending skirt and wherein the skirt has a slight conicity.

20. (Original) The filter of claim 14 further comprising an intake opening covered by filter fabric on the first end of the tubular body.

21. (New) The filter of claim 14 further wherein the tubular body is monolithically formed with the pump connection neck.